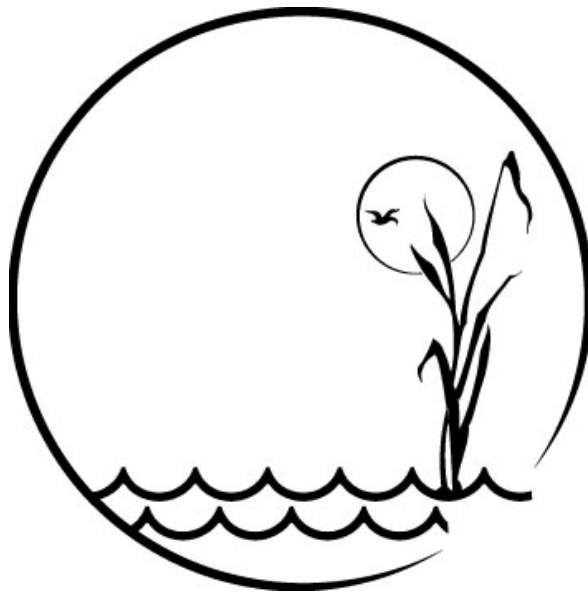


# **Working with water or have questions concerning water issues?**



Whether you are an individual or business owner, this reference guide will provide you with helpful contact information on topics such as water quality, permits, erosion concerns, development regulations and much more.

Prepared and compiled by:  
Sedgwick County Conservation District  
316-660-7288

Water is vital to agriculture, industry, recreational resources, and public health. There are many dedicated organizations and governmental departments striving to ensure the health of Kansas Waters. These agencies provide help to individuals and businesses in assessing water problems; they provide technical assistance and informational sources; and they issue various permits required to work with, in and around water. Funding may be available for certain projects. Contact information for a number of local agencies is provided on the following pages. Remember, LOCATION is crucial, i.e. in the city – city agency; in the county – county agency.

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# Drainage



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **What's required to construct an improvement in a non-agricultural drainage area?**

### Permit and Regulatory

- Sedgwick County Storm Water Management, 316-383-7901
- Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 316-322-8247

### Technical Assistance

- Wichita Storm Water Management, 316-268-4498

- **How do I ensure proper drainage from an agricultural field?**

### Funding

- Sedgwick County Conservation District, 316-660-7286
- Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127

### Permit and Regulatory

- Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717

### Technical Assistance

- Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127

## Drainage (continued)

- **What household items are safe and legal to dispose of in a street drain?**

Nothing should be disposed of in a street drain. Call the Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 316-660-7464, for disposal options.

- **What household items are safe and legal to dispose of in a home drain if I'm hooked to a municipal sanitary sewer?**

Technical Assistance

- Wichita Water and Sewer Department, 316-303-8703

- **What household items are safe and legal to dispose of in a home drain if I have an on-site waste disposal system?**

Technical Assistance

- Sedgwick County Code Enforcement, 316-383-7951
- Sedgwick County Conservation District, 316-660-7286

- **What do I do if my property is damaged from my neighbor's runoff?**

Regulatory (Rural/Agricultural)

- Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717

Technical Assistance

- Sedgwick County Storm Water Management, 316-383-7901
- Wichita Storm Water Management, 316-268-4498
- Local Homeowners Association (if applicable)

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Oceans make up 97% of the water on earth.
- The other 3% of the water on earth is useable by humans.
- Of that 3%, icecaps, glaciers and inland seas make up 77%, groundwater 22%, and other 1%.
- Of the 1%, 39% is contained in the atmosphere, 61% is in lakes, and less 1% is in rivers.

# Flood Plains



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Where do I find out if my home is located in a flood plain?**  
Technical Assistance
  - Sedgwick County Storm Water Management, 316-383-7901
  - Wichita Storm Water Management, 316-268-4498
- **How is the flood plain determined?**  
Technical Assistance
  - Sedgwick County Storm Water Management, 316-383-7901
  - Wichita Storm Water Management, 316-268-4498
- **Are special permits required for flood plain construction?**  
Permit and Regulatory
  - Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717
  - Sedgwick County Storm Water Management, 316-383-7901

# Ponds/Lakes



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who do I call for permit information about building a pond?**

### Permit

- Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 316-322-8247 (non Ag-land)

- **How do I build a pond?**

### Funding

- Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127
- Sedgwick County Conservation District, 316-660-7286

### Technical Assistance

- Natural Resources Conservation Service, 316-721-6127

- **What is the proper way to drain a pond?**

### Technical Assistance

- Sedgwick County Extension Service, 316-722-7721
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 316-683-8069

- **What do I need to be concerned with when working around a pond?**

### Permit

- Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717

### Technical Assistance

- Wichita Storm Water Management, 316-268-4498
- Sedgwick County Storm Water Management, 316-383-7901
- Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127

## Ponds/Lakes (cont.)

- **What kinds of plants and animals are good for stocking a pond?**

Technical Assistance

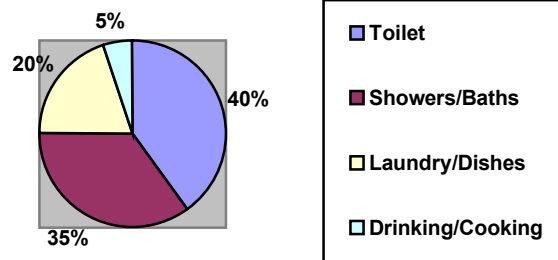
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 316-683-8069

- **I'm concerned about the water quality in a lake. Who do I call?**

Technical Assistance

- Wichita Dept. of Environmental Health, 316-268-8351
- Private Labs – See yellow pages.

### DID YOU KNOW?



75% of water used in the home is used in the bathroom.

# River Banks



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **The river bank on my agricultural property is eroding. Who can I call for help?**

### Funding

- Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, 620-241-6921
- Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127
- Sedgwick County Conservation District, 316-660-7288

### Permit

- Sedgwick County Storm Water Management, 316-383-7901
- Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 316-322-8247

### Technical Assistance

- Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-6127

- **Who do I contact for a permit if I am doing work that may affect a river bank?**

### Permit

- Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 316-322-8247
- Sedgwick County Storm Water Management, 316-383-7901



# Private Waste Systems



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who do I call if I want to remove my septic system myself and I want to ensure environmental policy compliance?**

### Funding

- Sedgwick County Conservation District, 316-660-7286

### Permit

- Sedgwick County Code Enforcement, 316-383-7951
- Wichita Department of Environmental Health, 316-268-8351

### Technical Assistance

- Sedgwick County Code Enforcement, 316-383-7951
- Wichita Department of Environmental Health, 316-268-8351

- **Are funds available to assist in replacement of my failing septic system?**

### Funding

- Sedgwick County Conservation District, 316-660-7288

- **I own property in the county and I'd like to build a lagoon, what are the rules?**

### Technical Assistance

- Sedgwick County Code Enforcement, 316-383-7951

# Spills/Fish Kills



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who do I call if I notice dead fish in my pond, river, or stream?**

### Regulatory

- Wichita Department of Environmental Health, 316-268-8351

### Technical Assistance

- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 316-683-8069

- **A large amount of fertilizing chemical spilled on my property. Will it affect my drinking water?**

### Technical Assistance

- Wichita Water and Sewer Department, 316-303-8703

- **Someone dumped material into the river system. Who do I call?**

### Regulatory

- Call Law Enforcement, 911
- Kansas Department of Health & Environment, 316-337-6020
- Wichita Storm Water Management, 316-268-4498
- Sedgwick County Storm Water Management, 316-383-7901

# Streams



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do I stop my stream from eroding my property?**

### Funding

- Sedgwick County Conservation District, 316-660-7286
- Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, 620-241-6921
- Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127

### Permit

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 316-322-8247
- Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717

### Technical Assistance

- Kansas State Research & Extension, 620-663-5491
- Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127

- **I want to dredge the stream on my property. What procedure do I need to follow?**

### Permit

- Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 316-322-8247

### Technical Assistance

- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 316-683-8069

- **A stream (intermittent) runs through my property and I want to develop the land, what do I need to do?**

### Permit

- Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 316-322-8247

- **What are my water rights on the stream running through my property?**

Permit and Regulatory

- Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717

DID YOU KNOW?

One hour of lawn watering can use as much as 220 gallons of water? Think about it ...

- Water the lawn, not the sidewalk.
- Water deeply and slowly.
- Water in the cool of the day.
- Fertilize, but not too much!
- Don't water when it's raining.

# Water Wells



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who can I call to test the quality of water in my well?**  
Technical Assistance
  - Wichita Department of Environmental Health, 316-268-8351
  - Private Labs - see yellow pages
- **I have a water well that isn't being used. Should it be plugged?**  
Funding
  - Sedgwick County Conservation District, 316-660-7288Permits and Regulatory
  - Sedgwick County Code Enforcement, 316-383-7951
  - Wichita Department of Environmental Health, 316-268-8351Technical Assistance
  - Sedgwick County Conservation District, 316-660-7288
  - Sedgwick County Code Enforcement, 316-383-7951
  - Wichita Department of Environmental Health, 316-268-8351
- **I want to drill a well on my property. Where should I locate it?**  
Technical Assistance
  - Sedgwick County Code Enforcement, 316-383-7951
  - Wichita Department of Environmental Health, 316-268-8351

# Wetlands



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do I restore a wetland that is on my property?**

- Funding

- Sedgwick County Conservation District, 316-660-7286
    - Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127
    - Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, 620-241-6921

- Permit

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 316-322-8247 (non-Ag land)
    - Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127 (Ag land)
    - Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717

- Technical Assistance

- Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127

- **What is a wetland?**

- Technical Assistance

- Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127
    - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 316-322-8247

- **There is a wetland on my property and I want to farm over it. Who do I call for approval?**

- Permit and Regulatory

- Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127
    - Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717

- **I want to develop my land and I think that a portion of it is a potential wetland, who do I call?**

Permit

- Natural Resource Conservation Service, 316-721-6127
- Kansas Division of Water Resources, 785-296-3717
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 316-322-8247

Technical Assistance

- Sedgwick County Conservation District, 316-660-7289

DID YOU KNOW?

- The State of Kansas lies within the Mississippi River Watershed. The northern part of the State drains first to the Missouri River, and the southern part of the State drains first to the Arkansas River.
- There are twelve designated major river basins (watersheds) within the State.
- Approximately 95% of Sedgwick County is in the Lower Arkansas Basin, 5% (the far eastern portion of the county) is in the Walnut River Basin.
- Each of the Basins within Sedgwick County has been divided into smaller watersheds.
- Remember, we are always upstream from somebody, and downstream from somebody else.

# Agencies Referenced in this Brochure

**Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams:** Provides education, communication, research and data collection, facilitating project implementation, and securing long-term financial support. Their mission is to ensure the future of wetlands, streams, and the adjacent riparian areas as an integral part of Kansas's heritage and landscape. Recent actions include formatting a "one stop" permitting process for wetland and stream bank restoration projects.

**Contact Information: Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams**  
620-241-6921  
P.O. Box 236  
McPherson, KS 67460-0236  
[www.kswetlands.org](http://www.kswetlands.org)

**Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks:** The Department is administered by a Secretary of Wildlife and Parks and is advised by a seven member Wildlife and Parks Commission. The driving force behind the Commission's actions are the goals and objectives of managing and promoting the wildlife and natural resources of the state. KDWP is involved with the licensing of hunting and fishing activities, and issuing recreational permits within the state parks.

**Contact Information: Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks**  
316-683-8069  
6232 E. 29<sup>th</sup>  
Wichita, KS 67220  
[www.kdwp.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us)

**Kansas Division of Water Resources:** The Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources provides management of the state's water resources. DWR administers 28 state laws, including the Kansas water appropriation act and statutes concerning construction of dams, levees and other changes to streams within Kansas. DWR administers the state's four interstate river compacts and coordinates the national flood insurance program in Kansas. The Division also administers water appropriations (how to obtain a water right, how to apply for a change in water right and water use reporting and more); water structures (how to obtain a permit to modify a stream (channel changes, dams, etc.); and floodplain information and flood insurance.

**Contact Information: Kansas Division of Water Resources**  
785-296-3717  
109 S.W. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Second Floor  
Topeka, KS 66612  
[www.accesskansas.org/kda](http://www.accesskansas.org/kda)



Structures:

[waterstructures@dka.state.ks.us](mailto:waterstructures@dka.state.ks.us)

Appropriation:

[waterrights@dka.state.ks.us](mailto:waterrights@dka.state.ks.us)

**K-State Research & Extension:** Employing approximately 300 research scientists, 180 faculty specialists and program leaders, and 270 county and area specialists. KSU Research and Extension Service provides support to communities, families and businesses in the areas of agricultural industry competitiveness and natural resource and environmental management. They meet with producers, industry representatives, town leaders, and homeowners who are interested in preserving and enhancing the environment and natural resources. KSU also emphasizes realigning research and educational programs to reflect agriculture's need for synthesized information that affects the entire farm business. Help is also given on assessing ever-changing governmental programs that affect Kansas's agriculture.

**Contact Information: KSU Research and Extension Service**

620-663-5491

Trade Center Bldg, Ste. 125

1600 N. Loraine

Hutchinson, KS 67501

[www.ksu.edu](http://www.ksu.edu)

[rgrabber@oznet.ksu.edu](mailto:rgrabber@oznet.ksu.edu)

**Natural Resource Conservation Service:** The NRCS is a federal agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. Since 1935 NRCS has offered technical assistance and guidance to help private landowners conserve, develop, and wisely use their soil, water, and related natural resources on a voluntary, non-regulatory basis. They work with land users, groups and units of government to reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality, promote good land use, reduce flooding, and improve woodland and pasture conditions.

**Contact Information: Natural Resource Conservation Service**

316-721-6127

11832 W. Central

Wichita, KS 67205

[www.kansas.nrcs.gov](http://www.kansas.nrcs.gov)

**Sedgwick County Code Enforcement:** Sedgwick County Code Enforcement is responsible for building permitting and inspections, zoning and nuisance inspections, and wastewater (septic/lagoon) permitting and inspections for Sedgwick County. The Department issues building permits in the unincorporated areas of the county; licenses trade people; reviews building plans; inspects new constructions for compliance with building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical codes; and furnishes zoning and subdivision information to citizens, realtors, appraisers, and contractors.

**Contact Information: Sedgwick County Code Enforcement**

316-383-7951  
1144 S. Seneca  
Wichita, KS 67213  
[www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org)

**Sedgwick County Conservation District:** The SCCD is an entity of State and Local government, receiving funding from the State Conservation Commission and the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners. The District administers cost-share funds (project grant monies) for local use as incentives for landowners to implement BMP's (best management practices). All projects are designed to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. Additionally, the District engages in public information and education activities.

**Contact Information: Sedgwick County Conservation District**

316-660-7288  
2625 S. Tyler Rd.  
Wichita, KS 67215-8621  
[www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org)

**Sedgwick County Extension Service:** The Extension Education Center is the headquarters for all Extension programs in Sedgwick County. The Extension staff conduct educational programs in the areas of Water Quality and Environmental Management; Food, Nutrition, Health and Safety, Agricultural Industry Competitiveness, and Technology Applications and Training.

**Contact Information: Sedgwick County Extension Service**

316-722-7721  
7001 W. 21<sup>st</sup> St. N.  
Wichita, KS 67205  
[www.sedgwickcountyextension.com](http://www.sedgwickcountyextension.com)

**Sedgwick County Storm Water Management:** The Mission of the Stream Maintenance Department is to maintain watercourses in certain areas of the county as designated by K.S.A. 82A-307. This will minimize flooding; erosion and property damage and enhance public safety.

**Contact Information: Sedgwick County Storm Water Management**

316-383-7901  
1144 S. Seneca  
Wichita, KS 67213

**State Conservation Commission:** Administers Kansas Laws and Statutes designed to assist local entities and individuals in conserving natural resources of the State. The State Conservation Commission's financial assistance programs are administered at the local level by the Conservation District, with technical expertise provided by the NRCS.

**Contact Information: State Conservation Commission**

785-296-3600  
109 W. 9<sup>th</sup>, Suite 500  
Topeka, KS 66612  
[www.accesskansas/ksc](http://www.accesskansas/ksc)

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offers a wide range of services to its military and civilian customers. They provide comprehensive engineering, management and technical support to the Department of Defense, other federal agencies, and state and local governments. They have a diverse community of licensed professionals and certified technicians that are involved in direct project investigation and design activities as well as review and oversight of activities directly performed by Architect-Engineer firms under contract to the District. Public land and water use constitute a large portion of the Corp's responsibilities. They also issue a number of permits for activities in streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

**Contact Information: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

316-322-8247  
2710 Shady Creek Access Road  
El Dorado, KS 67042  
[www.nwk.usace.army.mil/regulatory](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/regulatory)

**Wichita Department of Environmental Health:** The mission of the Wichita Department of Environmental Health is to ensure the public health through environmental project management and assess environmental impacts of both businesses and the private sector. They also provide permit information and regulatory guidelines within the boundaries of the City of Wichita.

**Contact Information: Wichita Dept. of Environmental Health**

316-268-8351  
1900 E. 9<sup>th</sup>  
Wichita, KS 67214  
[www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov)

**Wichita Storm Water Management:** Designs, maintains, and operates storm water conveyances through which runoff is carried to receiving water bodies. Responsible for storm water runoff quality compliance as required by federal/state discharge permits, and the city floodplain management program.

**Contact Information:    Wichita Storm Water Management**  
316-268-4498  
City Hall – 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
455 N. Main  
Wichita, KS 67201  
[www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov)

**Wichita Water and Sewer Department:** Services provided include pumping and purifying water, maintaining the water distribution and wastewater collection systems, treating wastewater, managing facilities and planning for future needs, all with the most responsible use of financial resources. The Department also administers the Industrial Pretreatment Program, Grease Interceptor Program, Storm water Sampling and Inspection Program and the Biosolids Agricultural Land Application Program.

**Contact Information:    Wichita Water and Sewer Department**  
316-303-8703  
2305 E. 57<sup>th</sup> St. South  
Wichita, KS 67216  
[www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov)

# Other Agencies Dealing with Environmental and Water Issues

**Environmental Protection Agency:** EPA provides leadership in the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. EPA works closely with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes to develop and enforce regulations under existing environmental laws. EPA is responsible for researching and setting national standards for a variety of environmental programs and delegates to states and tribes responsibility for issuing permits, monitoring and enforcing compliance. Where national standards are not met, EPA can issue sanctions and take other steps to assist the states and tribes in reaching the desired levels of environmental quality. The Agency also works with industries and all levels of government in a wide variety of voluntary pollution prevention programs and energy conservation efforts.

**Contact Information: EPA – Region VII Office**

913-551-7003  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

**Kansas Department of Health and Environment:** KDHE's mission is to optimize the promotion and protection of the health of Kansas through efficient and effective public health programs and services and through preservation, protection, and remediation of natural resources of the environment. Ensures projects are completed with the EPA standards. They administer programs related to public water supplies, wastewater treatment systems, the disposal of sewage, and nonpoint sources of pollution. Programs are designed to provide safe drinking water, prevent water pollution, and assure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations such as the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.

**Contact Information: Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment (State)**

785-296-5522  
1000 S.W. Jackson  
Suite 420  
Topeka, KS 66612  
[www.kdhe.state.ks.us](http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us)

**Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment (Local)**

316-337-6020  
230 E. William  
Wichita, KS 67202

**Sedgwick County Environmental Resources:** Environmental Resources is responsible for protecting the environment through conservation of resources. The department coordinates all components of solid waste management, promotes waste minimization, and provides environmental education for the citizens and businesses of Sedgwick County. The department enforces various Sedgwick County codes related to solid waste. This includes inspections of various disposal facilities, licensing waste haulers, and illegal dumping. They provide information on environmental issues affecting County government, such as sale of environmentally sensitive, County-owned land or disposal of hazardous materials.

**Contact Information: Sedgwick County Environmental Resources**  
316-660-7200  
2625 S. Tyler Rd.  
Wichita, KS 67215  
[www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org)

**Sedgwick County Public Works:** Their mission is to provide a high quality infrastructure to promote public health and safety and to stimulate and support a vibrant economy. This is achieved by the prudent management of resources and effective planning to anticipate and serve the diverse needs of the citizens and businesses in Sedgwick County. They are responsible for over 600 miles of roads and 657 bridges. The Stream Maintenance Dept. maintains certain watercourses to help minimize flooding, erosion and property damage.

**Contact Information: Sedgwick County Public Works**  
316-660-3065  
1144 S. Seneca  
Wichita, KS 67213  
[www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org)

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** As part of the Department of the Interior, the Service is responsible for carrying out Federal laws and programs that conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats. The Service's major responsibilities are migratory birds, endangered species, some marine mammals, and freshwater and anadromous fish. The Service manages the National Wildlife Refuge System and operates the National Fish Hatcheries. The Service also administers the Federal Aid of Sport Fish and Wildlife Programs, which distribute excise tax revenues from sales of hunting and fishing equipment and motorboat fuels to States for fish and wildlife restoration.

**Contact Information: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
785-539-3474  
315 Houston St.  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
[www.usfws.gov](http://www.usfws.gov)

**U.S. Geological Survey:** As a part of the Department of the interior, they collect data on ground water, reservoirs, and stream flow. This information used by a number of different agencies, and municipalities to manage water resources.

**Contact Information:**    **U.S. Geological Survey**  
316-267-4997  
245 Dewey  
Wichita, KS 67202  
[www.ks.water.usgs.gov](http://www.ks.water.usgs.gov)

# Terms to Know

**Catch Basin:** A sedimentation area designed to assist in the removal of pollutants from storm water runoff before being discharged into a stream or pond.

**Clean Water Act:** Water pollution control laws based upon the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 with amendments passed in 1977, 1981, and 1987; main objectives are to restore and maintain the “chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.

**Contour Plowing:** A system of plowing along contour lines of the land to prevent soil erosion.

**Discharge:** Release into a body of water.

**Drainage System:** A network formed by a main river and its tributaries.

**Dredging:** The cleaning, deepening, or widening of a waterway using a machine that removes materials using a scoop or suction device.

**Fill Material:** Material added to a wetland area to make it suitable for building.

**Flood Plain:** A low, flat area on either side of a river that can accommodate large amounts of water during a flood, lessening flood damage further downstream.

**Greywater:** Domestic wastewater that does not contain human waste; for example, tub, shower, or washing machine water.

**National Water Quality Standards:** Maximum contaminant levels for a variety of chemicals, metals, and bacteria set by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

**Nonpoint Source Pollution:** Pollution that cannot be traced to a single point (Example: outlet or pipe) because it comes from many individual places or a widespread area (typically urban, rural, and agricultural runoff).

**Phosphate:** Used generically for materials containing a phosphate group; sources include some fertilizers and detergents; when wastewater containing phosphates is discharged into surface waters, these chemicals act as nutrient pollutants (causing overgrowth of aquatic plants).



**Point Source Pollution:** Pollution that can be traced to a single point source, such as a pipe or culvert (Example: industrial and wastewater treatment plant, and certain storm water discharges).

**Pollution:** Contaminants in the air, water, or soil that cause harm to human health or the environment.

**Ridge Planting:** A conservation farming method where seeds are planted in ridges which allows warmer soil temperatures and traps rainwater in the furrows between the ridges.

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act:** Legislation passed in 1976 aimed at protecting the environment, including waterways, from solid waste contamination either directly, through spills, or indirectly, through groundwater contamination.

**Riprap:** Rocks, variety of sizes, placed along the bank of a waterway to prevent erosion.

**Runoff:** Water (originating as precipitation) that flows across surfaces rather than soaking in; eventually enters a water body; may pick up and carry a variety of pollutants.

**Sediment:** Insoluble material suspended in water that consists mainly of particles derived from rocks, soil, and organic materials; a major nonpoint source pollutant to which other pollutants may attach.

**Sediment Pond:** A natural or artificial pond for recovering the solids from effluent or runoff.

**Stream Use Classification:** A system for classifying streams according to the intended use of the water (Example: recreations, industrial cooling, and irrigation).

**Thermal Pollution:** The increase in temperature of a body of water due to the discharge of water used as a coolant in industrial processes or power production; can cause serious damage to aquatic life.

**Turbidity:** The cloudy or muddy appearance of a naturally clear liquid caused by the suspension of particulate matter.

This pamphlet was prepared by the Sedgwick County Conservation District in association with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and sponsored by Sedgwick County Department of Community Development. It is intended to provide the public with general contact information on water issues.

May 2003